MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know whether the entire lands necessary for the canal have been acquired?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I believe they have.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know when those lands were acquired?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I claim notice.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know whether any returns have been received from that canal?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I have no information.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know from the Chief Engineer whether he has inspected the spot when a portion of the canal was finished last year?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Yes, in company with the honourable member asking the question.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know, when the Chief Engineer visited the site last year, whether he expressed his view publicly that, in view of the large amount spent towards the construction of the canal, further work deserves to be pushed through?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Yes, I did, but I may say this. There are others living in the same neighbourhood as the honourable member himself of the view that there is no use in opening the canal at all.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know whether any representations have been received from the citizens of Shertala that, in view of the great importanee of the canal, the people themselves are prepared to open the canal at half the cost of the Government estimate?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Yes. I am still waiting for written confirmation.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know whether that point has received the earnest attention of Government?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I am still waiting for a written proposition to submit to Government.

Crane and Platform at the Arukutty Chowkey.

64. ✻MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKAR (*Shertala II*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is a crane and platform constructed at the Arukutty Chowkey;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, when it was constructed:

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(*c*) the actual cost of constructing the same ; and

(*d*) why it was constructed ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) On 29th Thulam 1104.

(*c*) Rs. 7,372-22-5.

(*d*) To ascertain the exact weight of cocoanut oil exported in casks and other heavy cargo for the levy of customs duty.

MR POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKAR (*Shertala II*) : May I know from the member where that crane is located ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : It is near the Arukutty Chowkey.

MR POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKAR (*Shertala II*) : Is it on land or on backwater ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Backwater.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKAR (*Shertala II*) : May I know whether that crane is used ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : No.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKAR (*Shertala II*): May I know why ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Excise people are not using it.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKAR (*Shertala II*): Is it due to the damaged condition that the Excise people are not using it ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : I do not think it has been used ever since it was erected.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKAR (*Shertala II*) : So am I to take it that it was never used at all by any department ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : My department had nothing to do with it, except its erection.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*) : May I know for what purpose it was erected ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : That is given in the answer.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : May I know whether Government have enquired as to why it was not used after it was erected ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Oil merchants say that it is liable to damage the casks.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Before the erection of this crane was it ascertained that it could be properly used without being objected to by the oil merchants ?

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MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : I have no information. This happened 10 years ago.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : May I know whether after having wasted so much money for a purpose, Government ascertained from the officers who recommended the constructiou of the same as to why it was not used and got their explanation for the same?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : I think that the officers who recommended the erection of the crane are either dead or are not now in service.

MR. A. S DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : When they found that it could not be used, may I know whether Government cared to ascertain whether the officers had sufficient explanation for that?

PRESIDENT : All evidence has been destroyed by nature.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Are there not Government records to ascertain the fact, after 1104, when this crane was completed, as to the causes that led to its construction and the reasons for its disuse?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : I claim notice.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : May I know, whether the objection raised by the Excise Department is a valid one ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : I believe it must be, because the Excise Commissioner supports it.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : May I know how the weighing is now effected ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : I have no information on that.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : May I know whether this crane is used anywhere else ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : I have no information on that.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : May I know whether articles other than oil are being weighed with the help of this machine?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : I have no information.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : May I know the reason why, in the case of other articles it is not used? It is said that, in the case of oil, it will cause damage to the merchants. I want to know why it is not used for weighing articles such as coir yarn, tobacco, copra and other articles ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : It may be possible. It is for the Excise Commissioner to say that.

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